

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Jordan Bureau Monthly Report - July 1981

I. GENERAL

A. The Embassy's 4th of July reception was very well attended despite local newspaper reports the following day that no Jordanian Government officials were present. In reality, a good number of ministers, ranking military and senators attended, but no members of the National Consultative Council, which had issued a statement shortly before condemning the United States for supporting Israel's attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

B. U.S. Embassies throughout the Middle East were placed on a heightened state of alert following the Israeli air raids on Beirut in which hundreds were killed and wounded. The Jordanian Government's relations with the Embassy remained cool but there were no incidents directed against Americans. As a precautionary measure, however, local troops were placed on guard around the American School while the summer youth program was in session.

C. A Tel Aviv Bureau item reporting that tourists coming from Jordan would be permitted to enter Israel but not return effective 1 August was the subject of an Embassy cable to State and the Embassy in Tel Aviv seeking verification. Israel would supposedly adopt the measure because the Jordanian state airline has been undercutting the Israel airline over tourism. So far there has been no confirmation of the report, but tourists, including embassy personnel, have been harassed and turned back at the border by Israeli guards on a willy-nilly basis.

D. Over 700 cases of cholera with four deaths have been reported throughout the country during the month, with isolated cases reported in Lebanon, Israel and Kuwait spread by travelers. Fortunately, no embassy personnel contracted the disease. However, much more serious were the ramifications of the case of typhoid contracted by the Embassy admin secretary living in the apartment directly under the Bureau Chief. While the secretary is recovering nicely, the hundreds of meatballs she had made for The American Club's Italian Night prior to the diagnosis of her disease had to be discarded and the event canceled.

E. Due to the strong showing of the dollar against the Jordanian Dinar in recent months, the COLA ceased to exist the end of May with little likelihood of it being reinstated in the foreseeable future.

## II. OPERATIONS

A. Bureau wordage was relatively light during the Ramadan month despite the two-week Israeli-Palestinian hostilities as Tel Aviv and Nicosia bureaus carried the major load in covering the crisis. Because of continuing reception problems, bureau was compelled to turn over yet another Voice of Palestine cast to Nicosia for primary coverage, the 1445-1500 GMT English-language cast. Throughout the month, the bureau remained light-staffed with the chief monitor on end of contract leave and two other monitors taking back-to-back annual leave.

B. The anti-U.S. tone that appeared in the Jordanian media in June following the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor intensified in July in the wake of the Israeli attacks on Lebanon. Highlighting the criticism were replays of King Husayn's anti-U.S. remarks contained in several interviews with Western newsmen. By the end of the month, the Amman press was reporting calls by "popular" organizations for a governmental boycott of U.S. goods.

## III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Three dozen monitor applicants responded to the bureau's locally placed advertisements aimed at filling one slot each for Jordan and Nicosia. Testing uncovered two applicants deserving of a closer look; a West Bank female and a Saudi male national married to an American.

B. Associate Editor Trainee [ ] entered on duty 12 July. STAT

## IV. VISITS

A. Chief Engineer [ ] 6-8 July TDY. STAT

[ ]  
Chief, Jordan Bureau STAT